



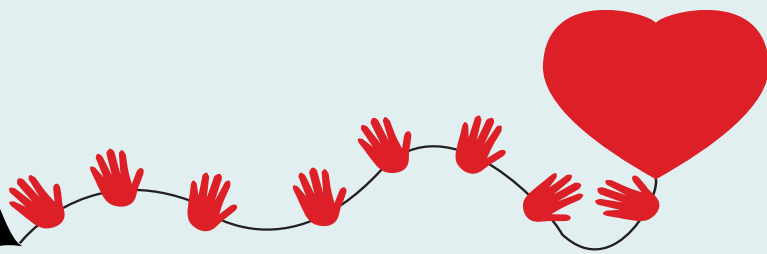
Maricopa County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/juvenile/casa/Casa.html

January 2003



UPCOMING EVENTS

• January 8-10

Child Abuse Prevention
Conference Mesa
Centennial Center

• January 20

Martin Luther King's
Birthday, CASA Office will
be closed.

• January 23

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Volunteer Forum, Durango
Juvenile Court Complex,
Juvenile Probation Adminis-
tration Building Room 223

• January 28,

12 p.m. - 1:30 pm.
Brown Bag Lunch with
Judge Scott, Durango
Juvenile Court Complex,
Juvenile Probation Adminis-
tration Building Room 223

• February 3,

3 p.m.- 5 p.m.
Training: Dependency
Overview, Southeast
Juvenile Court Complex,
Saguaro Room

• February 7-8, 8 p.m. to 4 p.m.

New CASA Orientation
Training, Arizona Supreme
Court Building

• February 13, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Post Orientation Training
Durango Juvenile Court
Complex
Juvenile Probation Adminis-
tration Building Room 223

• February 20, 9:45 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Legislative Day, Arizona
Supreme Court Building
Training Room 119, (Limit of
50 participants statewide)

LaDonna's seven recruiting goals for the new year

Happy New Year every-
one! You all did an excellent
job at getting the word out
about CASA in 2002. I want to
say thank you to all of our
volunteers for stepping up to
the plate. Let's keep up the
good work for 2003. I wanted
to share with you our CASA
Recruitment Goals for this year
because we do need all of you
to help us accomplish what we
have set out to do- recruit
more volunteers to lend a voice
to abused and neglected
children.

Get ready! Get set! Let's
go!

1. Institute a CASA Faith-
Based Recruiting Initiative.

Our plan is to contact the
unifying bodies of our Valley
churches and ask them to
support the CASA program by
disseminating information for
us. However, the best way to
make contact and get the word
out is still our volunteers

speaking to their congregation
leaders about CASA. Please
continue to send in your
church bulletins, and I will be
sure to send them information
to publish.

2. Continue to Participate
in Community Fairs and
Events.

We diligently search the
community calendars in the
paper and on the internet to
find out about events we can
attend and staff information
tables. Of course, we do miss
some. That is why we need
your eyes and ears as well.
Does that sound familiar? If
you know of an event at which
we may be able to recruit
volunteers in your community
or at your workplace, let us
know.

3. Schedule Two Speak-
ers Bureau Presentations Per
Month.

We will be contacting

businesses, congregations,
civic organizations, etc. to ask
if we can be put on their
agenda to speak. We want
you to feel free to call us with
your suggestions as to where
we can speak as well. We
would love to have you join the
Speakers Bureau.

4. Participate in Cultural
Awareness Celebrations.

We are compiling a list of
the events coming up this year.
Our plan is to staff tables at
the Martin Luther King Day
Celebration, Hispanic Heritage
Month events, National
American Indian Heritage
Month events, and Asian-
Pacific Heritage Month cel-
ebrations. If you know of any
others, please call our office.

5. Submit Articles to
Newspapers.

We will continue to

Continued Page 2

Q&A from Judge Linda Scott

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge



Q Sometimes a situation
arises where the CASA Order
of Appointment appears to be
in conflict with statute. A
scenario: a CASA would like
the criminal background
information on a relative who
is being considered as a
placement. ARS 41-1750 deals
with the dissemination of
criminal history records by the
central state repository or
Department of Public Safety,
and has been cited as the
statute that disallows the
Department of Economic

Security to give
the information
to a CASA. The
CASA Order of
Appointment, however, states
that CASAs have access to the
child and all information
relating to the child or family
(including extended family).
How can a CASA get this
information to make an
informed assessment of family
members?

A Arizona Revised Statutes
section 41-1750 restricts the

sharing of criminal justice
information. The Department
of Economic Security and the
Superior Court are authorized
to receive this information for
the purpose of evaluating the
fitness of custodians or
prospective custodians of
children. This statute further
restricts the secondary disclo-
sure of this information. The
CASA Order of Appointment
cannot override this statute.

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Welcome Grace Nabor

The CASA Program welcomes new coordinator Grace Nabor. She will be housed in Mesa and brings a wealth of knowledge and

experience to the program. Grace was a judicial assistant for six years in Greenlee



County Superior Court. For the past three and a half years, Grace was a judicial assistant for Judge Edward O. Burke in Maricopa County. Grace is married and has four sons, and a grandson.

CASA Kudos

The Foster Care Review Board commended these CASAs for their dedication to the children on their cases:

- Barbara Bean
- Victoria Keegan
- Fran Christofolo
- Ronald Pina
- Georgia Clubb
- Larry and Shelly Gray
- Kenneth Luffey
- June Anderson

From the Court:

- During an RnR hearings Judge Barton commended CASA, **Karen Nelson**, for an "excellent job and all her efforts and time."
- Judge Dunevant praised CASA, **Linda Carthen**, for her addendum, which gave him a different perspective on a couple of points. He then addressed those things with the juvenile in the courtroom.
- Judge Barton commended CASA, **Melanie Turrell**, in court, "The CASA's report is excellent and as far as background information, was far more detailed than the

case manager's report." She goes onto quote information from the report.

- Judge Barton commended CASA, **Barbara Beck**, in court, "The Court is very appreciative of the CASA's presence in court today. Because of the CASA's continued involvement with the children, the Court was able to proceed with today's Report and Review."
- Judge ProTem Holding commended CASA, **Sarah Ghazi**, in court, "The Court thanks the CASA for her thorough and in-depth report."

From CPS:

- The case manager in James Lee's case reported "William continues to have regular contact with his CASA, **James Lee**, and this worker feels that this relationship has shown to be a valuable connection for William."
- CPS case manager, Pamela Mudryj, commended **Gilda Czerwonka**, "The assigned CASA has been an asset to this case. She has been a vital team member."

From a Child's Attorney:

Newly appointed special advocate, **Douglas Reed**, commended by the child's attorney for all his work on the case thus far. The child and grandmother reported to the attorney all about Doug's activity since being appointed to the case.

From LaDonna:

- Pat Cohen for inviting CASA to her neighborhood consortium meeting.
- Peter Alper for translating our CASA information into Spanish to put in our Spanish Media PR packets.
- Frank & Mary Denz for office help.
- Celeste Bennett for giving us contact information for the South Mountain District News which will feature an article on CASA.
- Betty Simpson for giving guests at her party CASA information.
- Barbara Karim for being selecting as a "Champion for Children" by the *Arizona Republic* this past December 2002.

Farewell

Hart Gottliebson, CASA volunteer, mentor, and friend passed away on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 due to health complications. Hart took her first case with the Maricopa County CASA Program in January 1998 and saw it to successful completion in June 2000. She accepted additional responsibilities when she became a Mentor for the program in July 2000. Hart had almost ten years experience with CASA programs in other parts of the country before moving to Phoenix. Her professional career included work in the social services field. We will miss her gentleness and kind, patient and devoted dedication to dependent children.

Peer Group Meetings

Scottsdale – 1:30 p.m., last Wednesday of every month, home of MaryLou Davis.

Central Phoenix – 6:30 p.m., third Wednesday of every other month, at the homes of alternating hosts Marcia Rysdon and Doreen Sweiss.

Phoenix – 4 p.m., second Sunday of every month at home of Peiggi Clements

West Valley – 6:30 p.m., fourth Thursday of every month, at the home of Donna Spence.

Please call the main CASA office – 602.506.4083 – for peer group host phone numbers.

Goals, From Page 1

submit articles not only to large circulation newspapers, but also neighborhood newsletters, retirement/senior community bulletins, and other small publications. Please send any publications you think we should submit CASA information to.

6. Sponsor Activities for National Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month.

We will again have a

Light of Hope event in honor of this month. There will be many opportunities for you to lend your voice and hand in the planning of these activities. Stay tuned!

7. Implement Operation Saturation.

Since you all did such an excellent job with the Newspaper Drive, we are going to turn up the heat with Operation Saturation. Participating volunteers will be given

bookmarks, brochures, and posters to deliver to bookstores, libraries, churches, etc. in their area.

There you have it. Our goals for 2003! I know many of you have ideas and suggestions that need to be heard. Please call and discuss how we can reach our goals and go beyond them to help children.

Remember "Each One Reach One!"

Coordinator's Corner

By Bonnie Marcus



Happy New Year to all! We are so excited in the CASA office about where we have been during the last year, and about where we see ourselves going in the year 2003. A new year brings with it the tendency to dream and plan, to rethink our old ways of doing things and look with anticipation to changes that will improve our lives, our communities and our world. The CASA office is no different, and because we ended the year 2002 on such a high note, unlike many New Year's resolutions that are made and then forgotten, we can look forward to building on our many successes of the past year.

The Maricopa County Program grew last year to an office of ten people. The team that now works to support all of you in your efforts for your children has been together for a length of time that creates a sense of consistency that allows the program to grow. Organizationally, the office is functioning at an efficient level, thanks to excellent support staff, Rita and Esperanza, led by Otis, our Office Manager. There will always be the change in court

hearings or sporadic lack of notification to our office of changes in FCRB dates, but we will constantly strive to "let you know when we know." In early December, we added another Mesa Coordinator, Grace Nabor, and we are excited for her to know you as she works with you.

The program continues to grow, and we've seen an increase in our number of active CASAs that we have not seen in two years. As of early December, we had 185 CASAs serving 351 children on open cases, and 20 volunteers helping with Speaker's Bureau and other recruiting and office activities. This brings the total number of active volunteers to 205. This is a major milestone for the program, and we have over 30 volunteers completing their training, awaiting their first case. Our orientation training

classes, thanks to great recruiting from LaDonna, have never been less than 20 applicants. Our recruitment efforts are working! And you have been a huge part of it. Take a look at our recruitment goals in this issue, and see where you can help us get the CASA word out.

The office also saw new technology that helps us reach all of you with one message. Our CASA Phone Tree has been a great help in letting us get information to you in a timely fashion. Thank you Otis for your pleasant greetings and reminders. In addition, our web site, www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/CASA carries an updated Calendar of Events that you can access to keep abreast of upcoming events.

Looking to the new year, we have created a training calendar for all of 2003 that will allow you to choose training classes that will benefit you in your CASA work. The "year at a glance" calendar offers several training opportunities each month for you to hone your skills and expand your knowledge. This will allow for much more prior planning in acquiring your needed 12 training hours for the year. We hope the variety of classes, tours and forums will

pique your interest this year. In addition, Peer Groups continue to meet across the valley, and offer an excellent opportunity for you to discuss case issues and concerns in a supportive environment.

I am continually amazed by all of you as you work on your CASA cases. I value each of your contributions to the program and to the children of Phoenix. Aside from that, on a more personal level, and I know that I speak for all of the CASA staff, we are so thankful for the giving spirits that move you to do the work you do. The passion you bring to your cases, and the laughter that comes from our wonderful conversations with you never fails to motivate and inspire us to continue the work that we do.

We are pleased with how far the CASA program has come over the last year, and are excited to keep the momentum going for 2003. With the same kind of effort, we can reach more children with the message that they are not alone, and continue to keep our judges armed with good information to aid them in making wise decisions about our children's lives.

"You can't have a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." John Wooden

Judge Scott, From Page 1

When a CASA becomes aware the ADES has filed a motion to file criminal justice information under seal, the CASA can request that the Court disclose any convictions contained in those records because convictions are public information. The CASA can also request that the other information in the criminal justice records be

disclosed, but the Court might not grant the request. I have requested that when ADES files a motion to file criminal justice information under seal that a separate notice stating any convictions contained in the criminal justice information also be filed and sent to all parties, including the CASA. The Attorney General's office is presently considering this request.

FYI

There have been a lot of questions regarding the new court report format. We have found, even as CASA staff, that the new template may be hard to work with. Really, the main difference in the format is that the *Persons of Interest and/or Interviewed* and *Records Reviewed* have been moved to the end of the report. Also, only those persons that have been

interviewed are listed now. The sections, i.e. Assessments, have remained the same. Please note that the headings and questions under each section are suggestions to be used as a guide, and need not be answered in order, or completely. You can arrange your narratives in whatever way you are comfortable so that the flow of the report is yours. The suggested topics are only to lead you in formulating your thoughts.

CASA Contacts and Information

Locations

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